

GAMMON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY - 2022 REPORT

Rev. Dr. Candace M. Lewis, President-Dean

Gammon Theological Seminary, located in Atlanta, Georgia, is the Interdenominational Theological Center's United Methodist constituent member. The Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) is a Christian Africentric ecumenical consortium of seminaries and fellowships that educate students to commit to practicing justice and peace through a liberating and transforming spirituality to become leaders in the church and local/global communities.

Gammon was founded in 1883 by The Methodist Episcopal Church, with assistance from the Freedman's Aid Society. Today, Gammon Theological Seminary is the only predominately Black seminary of the 13 approved United Methodist-related theological institutions. The faculty and administration of Gammon at the ITC create an environment in which critical thinking, investigative reflection, decision making, and responsible action happen. The ITC's accreditation is with the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

Gammon/ITC offers the following degree programs: the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Religion and Education, and the Doctor of Ministry. Admission is open to qualified men and women. The support given to The United Methodist Ministerial Education Fund by United Methodist Conferences continues to enable Gammon students to be grounded in the Wesleyan tradition of theological education. The Gammon Board of Trustees elected our 17th president-dean, Rev. Dr. Candace M Lewis, and she is the first woman to lead the seminary in our 138-year history. Dr. Lewis began her tenure on April 1, 2021.

Our new initiatives and celebrations this year at Gammon include:

- The Rev. Geraldine Williams-McClellan \$100,000.00 Endowment Fund launched with Bishop Kenneth Carter and the Florida Annual Conference.
- Commissioned our first Gammon Seminary national research project focused on COVID-19's impact on Black United Methodist clergy, laity, and congregations – partnership with SBC21, BMCR, BCW, Discipleship Ministries and Convocation Pastors Black UMC. Please visit our website at www.gammon-itc.org for the findings.
- Hosted a virtual church leadership training event, Navigating Next, in January 2022 to equip leaders for effective ministry 2022 with over 700 registered attendees.
- Gammon student participates in the 2021 – 2022 Ecumenical Institute at Bossey. Tavis Tinsley, a Gammon senior, was invited by the United Methodist Council of Bishops (COB) the World Council of Churches. He completed the "Complementary Certificate in Ecumenical Studies" through the University of Geneva in Switzerland.
- Celebrated our 138th anniversary and Founder's Day.

The greatest challenge facing Gammon Seminary is the rising cost of theological education and the significant amount of debt our students are incurring as they answer their call to full-time ministry. Therefore, Gammon is committed to raising a million dollars in the next two years to offer full-tuition scholarships to students who are called and committed to full-time ministry in The United Methodist Church.

We are grateful to this annual conference for your support of theological education and your commitment to ensuring pastoral leadership is theologically trained to lead us forward in the Wesleyan tradition.